Mick Malthouse’s advice for Olympians

Well to Georga, we’re so thrilled and excited for her. And no doubt she’ll be a lot more excited than what we are, having the fact that first of all team selection, going through all of the process. Again, I’ll refer to football here, you play Saturday afternoon for two hours but reality wise you started your preseason in October and as an Olympian, we see them come around every four years. I know there’s championships along the way, but she’s no doubt dedicated so much time and effort and life to it, that Georgia we’re all on your side and we just want to see you succeed. And success doesn’t necessarily mean medals it simply means you competing as hard as you can as often as you can and as well as you can – and let me tell you that we’re all behind you.

The athletes would be excited, for a start, they’d be wrapped to be there. And that will settle down after the first couple of days, because it’s all new, it’s like taking kids away to their first training camp or even the leadup to a grand final if you like and there’s a lot of excitement, but then you’ve got to get down to the business side of things because the princicple thing why you’ve been chosen is because of your talent and your ambition, and your form and those three things just go hand in hand and if one of them doesn’t have the other you fall away so if you lose your concentration because of where you are – London Olympics, it sounds fantastic but really the hard work is really just starting, or maybe the fun’s all starting too because these kids have done so much to get where they’ve got.

I really do love the athletics, the hundred meters is fine, it’s over in the blink of an eye. I really like to see the strategies of the longer races, probably from 1500 through to the marathon in many respects, male female it makes no difference, I still think the strategies have got to be understood – which I don’t – but I love to see how people maneuver. They don’t look for best times, they don’t look for world records, they look to win. And that to me is so different compared to say someone just going flat out to try and create a world record. The swimming, of course I love the swimming when the Australian’s are in it. I love all the team events like basketball and so forth, and so I’m easily pleased with the Olympics, I could turn anything on and watch it.